(d) the details of Railways Divisions in which the said scheme is proposed to be started initially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The first hour after an accident is termed as the 'Golden Hour', as it is believed that chances of survival of a victim increase manifold if medical/surgical intervention is arranged within this hour.

Although no 'Golden Hour' scheme has been launched, Railways are making concerted efforts to accelerate the relief to reach the accident victims within the 'Golden Hour', as much as possible.

(c) and (d) The strengthening of the infrasturcture to speed up relief work has been taken up simultaneously in all the Railway Zones. Approximate cost of the implementation of this project is Rs. 400 crores, to be spent in the next three years.

Train service for Mau and Azamgarh

3296. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct train service from Mau and Azamgarh in U.P. to New Delhi and a considerable number of Members of Parliament are residing in that area;

(b) whether he has repeatedly assured Members of Parliament of that area to introduce a direct train for New Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when a direct train connecting Mau and Azamgarh to New Delhi would be introduced for convenience of the MPs and the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) At present, 4649/4650 Amritsar-Darbhanga Saryu Yamuna Express is available between Mau/Azamgarh and Delhi. Further, a new Express train is proposed to be introduced between Delhi and Azamgarh during 2003-2004, as announced in the Railway Budget, 2003.

Funds for bridges

3297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of rail bridges in the country need urgent repairs/replacement;